New Orleans D.A. Held Secrets Of Hints Ferrie Assassination

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Analysis

Assassination Talk Takes Bizarre Twist

By James Marlow

Washington, Feb. 23 (AP)—Talk without evidence is all there is so far from the efforts of New Orleans District Attorney Jim Garrison to prove a plot in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy.

But there are some bizarre twists.

The Warren Commission concluded Lee Harvey Oswald acted alone in the killing in Dallas November 22, 1963. There have been doubts about this ever since. Up until now Garrison has simply added to them.

He says he has no reason to believe Oswald killed anybody in Dallas that day. Last Saturday, giving no details, he promised five arrests and convictions, though the arrests were "most certainly months away."

Arrest Plans

Then yesterday, after David Ferrie, a plane pilot of about 45, had been found dead in his bed in New Orleans, Garrison said he had planned to arrest Ferrie next week.

DAVID W. FERRIE

"Apparently we waited too long," Garrison said, although he called Ferrie "one of history's most important individ-

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uals." Ferrie's death was one of the bizarre twists. The other, in Florida, was the start of an investigation into the 2-year-old death of another man.

Garrison referred to Ferrie's death as an "apparent suicide." Coroner Nicholas Chetta said Ferrie died of a ruptured blood vessel in the brain but added that further tests were being made.

A note, found in Ferrie's dining room, said: "To leave this life is, for me, a sweet prospect. I find nothing in it that is desirable and on the other hand everything that is loathsome."

Timing Of Note

But—and this is written after consultation here in Washington with a physician who is an internist—it would have seemed impossible for Ferrie to write the note at all and then walk back to his bedroom after the blood vessel burst.

Yet, if Ferrie wrote the note, intending it as a farewell, how could he have possibly known that as soon as he got back to bed the blood vessel in his brain would burst? Blood vessels are not that obliging.

Ferrie, no stranger to the Kennedy case, was questioned by both the FBI and Garrison's office in 1963 shortly after the President's death and was questioned again in Garrison's office last November.

Each time he was released. He said the FBI first became interested in him when a New Orleans man reported he had served with Oswald in a Civil Air Patrol unit under Ferrie. Oswald lived in New Orleans in the summe rof 1963. Ferrie had lived there fifteen years.

"Big Joke"

He repeatedly denied he ever knew Oswald and complained that Garrison had him "pegged as the get-away pilot in an elaborate plot to kill Kennedy." He called this a "big joke."

Meanwhile Pensacola authorities yesterday began investigating the 1964 death of Thomas Henry Killam, a sometime house-painter, who died beside a broken store window with a slashed throat. The police at the time called it an accidental death; the coroner called it a suicide.

But now his brother, Earl Killam, asking that the body be exhumed for further examination, says the dead man feared he was being pursued by "agents" connected with the Kennedy assassination and fled Dallas in December, 1963, saying he knew he would be killed by "agents" he didn't name.

Employed By Ruby

The dead man's wife, Wanda Killam, had been employed several years in a nightclub run by Jack Ruby, who killed Oswald and died last January 3. She said her husband had been employed as a painter by a man who once roomed in a Dallas boarding house with Oswald.